

Human Environment Digest

February 23, 2017

Welcome to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Human Environment weekly email digest. This digest shares the latest information from a range of Federal and non-Federal sources, addressing transportation and its relationship to the human environment. Through this information exchange, FHWA hopes to foster dialogue at all levels and continue to further the state of the practice on these important topics.

For more information on any of these topics, see the FHWA Related Links on the sidebar.

*The information provided in this mailing does not necessarily reflect the view of the Federal Highway Administration or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Contents:

- [Announcements](#)
- [Bicycle/Pedestrian](#)
- [Livability](#)

Announcements

Recreational Trails Program 2017 Achievement Awards

The *Coalition for Recreational Trails* (CTP) will present its 19th annual [Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\) Achievement Awards](#) in Washington, D.C., on June 14, 2017. Award winners will be selected from projects nominated by public agencies, trail administrators, or other project sponsors. Project award categories will include: construction and design; maintenance and rehabilitation; public-private partnerships and access to public lands; community linkage; education and communication; accessibility enhancement; multiple-use management and "corridor sharing"; use of youth conservation/service corps and community outreach; and engaging public-sector partners. Nominations are due by April 13, 2017.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



"The Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative: Institutionalizing Bicycle and Pedestrian Monitoring"

In January 2017, the *Minnesota Department of Transportation* (MnDOT) released a new report titled ["The Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative: Institutionalizing Bicycle and Pedestrian Monitoring."](#) The report summarizes work completed by MnDOT and the University of Minnesota between 2014 and 2016 to institutionalize bicycle and pedestrian monitoring throughout the State, including the launch of the "Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative."

UCLA Releases "The Modal Impacts of Bikeshare"

The *University of California Los Angeles* (UCLA) *Institute of Transportation Studies* (ITS) recently released ["The Modal Impacts of Bikeshare."](#) This information graphic summarizes bikeshare users' use of other forms of transportation. The study found that bikeshares can increase access to public transit, but sometimes replace public transit, depending on characteristics such as urban form and service models.

TRB Publishes "Bicycles and Motorcycles"

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) released Transportation Research Record No. 2587, titled ["Bicycles and Motorcycles."](#) The collection consists of 17 papers that explore issues related to bicycles and motorcycles, covering topics such as modeling acceleration and deceleration speed, impacts of road diets, and network connectivity.



Winter 2017 Edition of FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty's Research Newsletter

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty recently published the winter 2017 edition of its [research newsletter](#). This quarter's edition of the research newsletter highlights the proceedings from the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) 97th Annual Meeting, which took place in January 2017.

February 2017 "Successes in Stewardship" Newsletter

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) recently published the February 2017 edition of its [Successes in Stewardship](#) newsletter. The newsletter highlights current environmental streamlining and stewardship practices from around the Country. The February edition focuses on [Integrating National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) and Permitting](#), an "Every Day Counts" initiative.

USDOT Mobile Apps Promote Safety

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) [highlights several mobile apps](#) that help to keep travelers safe. These apps—developed by the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA), the *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration* (FMCSA), and the *Federal Aviation Administration* (FAA)—include SaferRide, SaferBus, SaferCar, and B4UFLY.

Resilience Economic Decision Guide Now Available

The *National Institute of Standards and Technology* (NIST) recently released ["Smart Choices: An Overview of the Community Resilience Economic Decision Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure Systems."](#) The brochure highlights key steps that planners can take to evaluate the costs and benefits of various resilience options that a community might face.

Smart Cities Council Readiness Challenge Announces Grant Winners

The *Smart Cities Council* has announced the [selection of five cities](#) that will receive assistance to improve the livability, sustainability, and resilience of their communities. The five winning cities are Austin, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Miami, FL; Orlando, FL; and Philadelphia, PA.